



PSEP QUARTERLY

A Quarterly Newsletter for Pesticide Safety Education Professionals

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Progress Report on Demonstration Spray Table Project

A USDA supported project to build spray demonstration table kits began this fall. The kits are being constructed for distribution to PSEP educators for use in their training sessions to demonstrate technology, pattern quality, and drift tendencies for spray tips commonly used to apply agricultural chemicals. The kits will include a self-enclosed table with pump, boom and nozzle body assembly, and pattern collector. A variety of spray tips will be included along with a strobe light, fan, and special accent lighting to help emphasize the spray tip characteristics. The kit will also include a short video and instruction manual to guide the trainers.

Ledebuhr Industries, Inc. of Bath, Michigan has been contracted to build the tables based on a prototype developed by the project committee headed by Robert E. Wolf from Kansas State University.



Wolf is overseeing the kit development and has been working with various vendors to supply parts of the kit. At this time the following companies have made significant contributions to the project: SHUR-FLO Pumps, Spraying Systems, and Hypro. Contributions for additional items are being sought. Most of the items to build the first group of 14 kits have been received or ordered and assembly is expected to begin soon after the first of the year. Kits are expected to be ready for delivery by spring, and a special session to introduce and demonstrate the table will be given at the North Central Region (NCR) Pesticide Education and Certification Workshop June 7th – 9th at the St. Louis Radisson Downtown.

- **Demonstration Spray Table Project Update**
- **EPA Receives Requests for Voluntary Cancellation of TBT**
- **Mike Leavitt Confirmed as EPA Administrator**

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Dow AgroSciences Pays \$2 Million Over Safety Claims

Dow AgroSciences will pay a \$2 million court-ordered penalty to the State of New York for illegal safety claims in advertising of its pesticides. Dow agreed to the \$2 million penalty but admitted no illegal or erroneous advertising, said spokesman Garry Hamlin, adding that the firm decided it would cost more to litigate the case than to pay the penalty. Dow officials said a 1994 agreement between the company and the state prohibited advertisements touting the safety of its pesticide products. "The 1994 agreement restricted our ability to support and de-

fend our products, even if our statements were true," Guy A. Relford, Dow's head of litigation, said in a statement. "For instance, the old agreement was interpreted by the New York attorney general as prohibiting our informing people that the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency had registered one of our products as a Reduced Risk Pesticide." State Supreme Court Judge Joan Madden in Manhattan issued the consent order that requires the firm to pay the \$2 million penalty, prohibits it from making safety claims about its pesticides, and requires it to start a compliance program. That pro-

gram will include an internal review of all ads and future ads by Dow in New York state and removal of any safety claims. The company will also have to provide training to comply with advertising restrictions. New York Attorney General Eliot Spitzer investigated Dow ads from 1995 to this year. Among the advertised claims cited by Spitzer was: "No significant adverse health effects will likely result from exposures to Dursban even at levels substantially above those expected to occur when applied at label rates."

Sources: PR Newswire & Newsday

SENATE APPROVES UTAH GOVERNOR LEAVITT AS EPA ADMINISTRATOR

The Senate this week confirmed the nomination of Utah Governor Mike Leavitt as administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). The nomination was approved by an overwhelming vote of 88 to 8 after Democratic lawmakers gave up their efforts to block the appointment.

The confirmation of Leavitt fills the vacancy at EPA that was created when Christine

Todd Whitman resigned in June. Since Leavitt was nominated, Senate Democrats have sought to delay or block his appointment as a way to protest the Bush administration's policy and record on environmental issues. Most of the lawmakers dropped their opposition this week after the White House agreed to review their complaints. After the Senate vote, Leavitt said he would resign as governor on November

5 and take up his new duties at EPA the following day. Leavitt is the nation's longest serving governor and is the former chair of the National Governors Association, Western Governors Association, Republican Governors Association, and Council of State Governments. He coauthored the environmental philosophy known as Enlibra, which means "moving toward balance."



Mike Leavitt,
Administrator
EPA

EPA Receives Requests for Voluntary Cancellation of TBT

EPA is announcing its receipt of requests for voluntary cancellation or termination of use from the two registrants that hold the manufacturing use product registrations for tributyltin (TBT) products used to formulate antifouling paints. Atofina Chemicals and Crompton Corporation have indicated that they will not sell stocks of TBT antifoulants after November 30, 2003. The requests are being made for economic reasons and in consideration of

the development of efficacious alternatives, which should prove safer for marine life.

For further information contact Jill Bloom at 703-308-8019. The entire text of this announcement may be viewed at <http://www.epa.gov/fedrgstr/EPA-PEST/2003/December/Day-05/p30165.htm>.

A New Defense Against Insect Pests

A new biological control developed by [Agricultural Research Service](#) (ARS) scientists may provide an important defense against some of the most destructive insect pests that farmers face. A bacterium called *Chromobacterium* *suttsuga* has been found to be effective against Colorado potato beetles, corn rootworms, diamondback moths, silverleaf whiteflies, and green stinkbugs. These pests collectively cost farmers almost \$3 billion annually in crop losses and control expenses. The team of ARS scientists involved in the research includes microbiologist

Phyllis Martin, laboratory technician Ashaki Shropshire, molecular biologist Dawn Gundersen-Rindal and entomologists Dale Gelman, Michael Blackburn and Robert Farrar—all at the [Insect Biocontrol Laboratory](#) in Beltsville, MD.—plus entomologist Jeffrey Aldrich and visiting scientist Edson Hirose at the [Chemicals Affecting Insect Behavior Laboratory](#), also in Beltsville. A patent application for the discovery has been filed. In lab tests, the scientists found that *C. suttsuga* seems to produce multiple toxins that deliver a lethal blow to the pests. Preliminary results

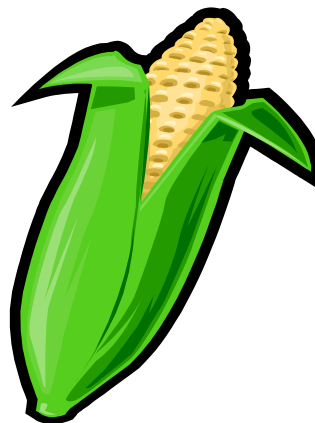
from field tests have confirmed lab results, and more field tests are planned. The bacterium's toxins can be combined with chemical compounds and then applied to soil, plants or seeds. To control soil-dwelling pests, rice grains can be treated with the toxins and applied to the soil where pests will feed on the treated grains. The discovery may ultimately provide a new control for agriculturally important insect pests and give growers alternatives to chemical insecticides. ARS is the in-house research agency of the [U.S. Department of Agriculture](#).

“A new biological control developed by ARS scientists may provide an important defense against some of the most destructive insect pests that farmers face.”

Modified Corn Variety Controls Moths and Beetles

Following a thorough evaluation, a new Monsanto corn variety has been approved for use. The product, called YieldGard Plus, is the first genetically engineered crop that has the ability to control two different insect groups. The corn produces two different *Bacillus thuringiensis* (or Bt) proteins, enabling it to protect from leaf and stalk damage caused by insects such as the European corn borer (a moth), and from root damage caused by the corn rootworm (a beetle). EPA evaluates these types of crops, called plant-incorporated-protectants under the Agency's pesticide regulatory authori-

ties. This new variety of corn was produced by traditional breeding of previously-approved plant incorporated-protectants. The previous varieties are “MON 810” (YieldGard) and “MON 863” (YieldGard Rootworm), and the associated Bt proteins are Cry3Bb1 and Cry1Ab. EPA carefully evaluated data regarding this new “stacked” product and considered the public comments submitted during its review process in reaching a decision about this registration. More information on EPA's biotechnology regulatory program can be found at: <http://www.epa.gov/esticides/biopesticides>.



NASDA Comments on Guidance for Pesticide Permits

National Association of State Departments of Agriculture (NASDA) provided comments to the EPA this week on the issue of when Clean Water Act (CWA) permits are required for certain aquatic pesticide applications. The agency is facing several lawsuits which seek to eliminate and restrict pesticide use or require permits for certain applications.

NASDA's affiliate organization, the Association of American Pesticide Control Officials (AAPCO), and other agricultural organizations have worked

closely with EPA on this issue over the past year. This summer, the agency published an Interim Statement and Guidance that addressed two sets of circumstances for which EPA believes that the application of a pesticide to waters of the United States, in compliance with relevant Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act (FIFRA) requirements, does not require a National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit under the CWA. The two circumstances are: (1) application of pesticides directly to waters of the United States in order to control pests (e.g., mosquito larvae or aquatic weeds that

are present in the water); and (2) application of pesticides to control pests that are present over waters of the United States that result in a portion of the pesticide being deposited to water bodies (e.g., when insecticides are aerially applied to a forest canopy where water may be present below the canopy or when insecticides are applied over water for control of adult mosquitoes). NASDA and other agricultural groups have agreed with EPA's guidance that permits are not required under these circumstances and have offered additional recommendations to address this issue. NASDA further encour-

NASDA (Cont.)

aged EPA to issue a formal rulemaking that adopts the position outlined in the Guidance document so that in future legal challenges the courts will be required to give deference to the agency position. EPA will take a final position after considering the comments received. A copy of NASDA's letter is available on the NASDA website.

EPA's guidance memorandum is available at http://www.epa.gov/npdes/pubs/pesticide_interim_guidance.pdf.

Contact: Charlie
Ingram; NASDA Update

*"Osmose has
not sold or
distributed
this
product."*

Copper Chromate and Creosote Products Cancelled

EPA has issued a Notice of Receipt of Requests to Cancel Certain Creosote and Acid Copper Chromate Wood Preservative Products and/or to Terminate Certain Uses of Other Creosote Products. The creosote requests were filed by the five registrants who comprise the Creosote Council III. They are requesting that the cancellations be made effective December 31, 2004.

In addition, Osmose, Inc., the sole registrant of Acid Copper Chromate, is requesting immediate cancellation of its product without provisions for existing stocks. For the past two years, Osmose has not sold or distributed this product. Prior to that time, although the label did not contain such a restriction, the registrant limited its sales and distribution of the product to one customer for the sole purpose of treating wood that was used in water cooling towers.

Unless the requests are withdrawn by October 29, 2003, EPA intends to issue orders granting these requests to cancel certain products and to amend to terminate certain uses.



For further information please contact Connie Welch at 703-308-8218. The entire text of the Federal Register Notice announcing this action may be found at <http://www.epa.gov/fedrgstr/EPA-PEST/2003/September/Day-29/p24560.htm>.

Diazinon Home and Garden Product Cancellation Request

EPA published a Federal Register notice on Wednesday, December 10 announcing the Agency's receipt of requests by registrants to voluntarily cancel all of their diazinon home and garden end-use products. This notice affects 75 diazinon product registrations held by 35 companies. The public has 180 days (until June 7, 2004) to comment on this notice. Unless substantive comments are received that merit further review, EPA intends to grant the cancellation requests, which will become effective December 31, 2004.

Diazinon is an organophosphate pesticide used to control a wide range of foliar and soil pests on a variety of fruit, nut, and vegetable crops. All home and garden uses are being phased out as a part of the 2000 Memorandum of Agreement with the technical registrants. Additional information and official documents related to diazinon are available on EPA's Web site at <http://www.epa.gov/pesticides/op/diazinon.htm>.

The Federal Register notice with instructions on how to submit comments is available on EPA's Web site at: <http://www.epa.gov/fedrgstr/EPA-PEST/2003/December/Day-10/p30271.htm>.

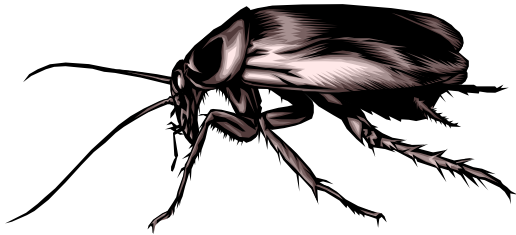
The notice can be read and comments submitted through EPA's online public docket, EDOCKET at: http://cascade.epa.gov/RightSite/dk_public_home.htm.

EPA Announces Preliminary Risk Assessment for Creosote

EPA is releasing for public comment its preliminary assessment regarding the potential risks associated with creosote. The assessment includes an evaluation of the potential risks to handlers and post-application workers from exposure to creosote. Creosote is a possible human carcinogen and is used primarily on utility poles and railroad ties. It is important to note that since this draft risk assessment is in the public review and comment phase, its findings are preliminary in nature and are subject to additional analysis.

It is, therefore, premature for EPA to reach conclusions about the potential for creosote-treated wood products to contribute to health risks in workers and handlers of this wood. EPA must receive comments, identified by Docket Number OPP-2003-0248, by February 3, 2004. The full preliminary assessment is available for public inspection in EPA's docket. The Federal Register Notice can be found at: <http://www.epa.gov/fedrgstr/EPA-PEST/2003/December/Day-05/p30270.htm>

Nineteen Bug Bomb Foggers Blast Apart Home



SAN DIEGO —
*It seemed like a
good idea at
the time.*

SAN DIEGO — It seemed like a good idea at the time.

A family living in a house infested with cockroaches and rats set off 19 "bug bomb" foggers in their 470-square-foot City Heights home yesterday, causing an explosion that virtually blew the building apart and sent Christmas decorations into the street, police said.

The family had just left the rental when the house blew about 8:45 a.m. No one was injured, although a pregnant woman who lives next door was taken to the hospital by her husband as a precaution, authorities said.

"We are very lucky someone wasn't killed," said Capt. Steve Salaz of the San Diego Fire-Rescue Department.

Shards of glass and nails from torn walls were strewn about. The back door of the house was blown off its hinges. Gaping holes were left in the ceiling. Insulation was spread throughout like confetti.

Authorities said they believe the Euclid Avenue residence

may have to be entirely rebuilt. Damage was estimated in excess of \$150,000. Investigators believe the bug bombs were ignited by a pilot light on a wall heater.

Aurelia Oliveras said she had just left the house and was in the back yard with her husband and 2-year-old daughter when the blast occurred.

"We had so many cockroaches and rats inside. That's why we did it," she said. Oliveras said the family members were walking to their car, parked to the rear of the house, when they heard and felt the blast.

"We ran for cover. things were flying everywhere". A woman next door was awakened suddenly when the south wall of the Oliveras home came crashing into the side of her house. She was not hurt.

The explosion was so loud that it shook Rangel's Market across the street. Griselda Rangel, who was inside the business, didn't know what to think. She raced outside, saw smoke billowing into the air and debris flying about. She called 911 and then went to check on the residents.

"I ran over to see if the people were OK," she said. "They were in the house trying to fix things. There still was a lot of smoke and fumes."

The first firefighters to arrive didn't know what had happened. An early dispatch advised that a car may have crashed into the house. "When we got here, we saw wires down and a collapsed wall," said fire engineer J.S. Cheek.

Utility workers shut off gas and power in the immediate area and police detoured traffic. The incident prompted officials to warn residents to take proper precautions when using the bombs.

All appliances should be shut off, including the pilot light on gas heaters. And one can is more than enough for a 600-square-foot home. Similar warnings are printed on the canisters, but the family is not fluent in English.

This was not the first time an abundance of bug bombs caused an explosion in the area. In April 2001, 18 bug bombs and a pilot light in a heater combined to blow up a City Heights apartment. No one was injured, and several cockroaches survived the blast.

The Red Cross was attempting to find shelter for the Oliveras family yesterday.

Source: SignOnSanDiego.com

Friday, December 19, 2003

CSREES/USDA

USDA, CSREES, PAS
Processing Engineering and
Technology
STOP 2220
800 9th Street SW
Waterfront Center

Phone: 202-401-3357

Fax: 202-401-6156

Email: wbest@csrees.usda.gov

[www.reeusda.gov/
pestmgt/psep/
coverpsep.htm](http://www.reeusda.gov/pestmgt/psep/coverpsep.htm)

ARS Facility Cuts Pesticide Use by 75 Percent

One of the ARS's largest research facilities has reduced pesticide use by 75 percent over the past decade by applying [ARS](#) sustainable agriculture research to its farm operations. At about 7,000 acres, the Henry A. Wallace Beltsville MD. ARS Center ([BARC](#)) is the agency's second-largest field location.

BARC land joins other federal properties to form a heavily forested area of more than 30,000 acres near the nation's capital. Sustainable agriculture techniques in use at BARC include a combination of practices, such as weed-smothering cover crops and increased use of beneficial insects. Since 1997, the center also has produced its own compost from plant residue and manure. The compost facility is surrounded by a 20-foot-wide grass buffer strip, as are 80 percent of BARC fields. The strips filter out possible pollutants before they reach streams that feed into the Anacostia River, which flows into the Potomac River and then to the Chesapeake Bay.

A pair of nesting bald eagles overlooking a swamp created by beavers is a telling symbol of BARC's environmental stewardship. Beaver Dam Creek flows below the eagles' nest, which is in an oak tree at the swamp's edge, upstream from the composting center. The streams at BARC are now clean enough to support brown trout.

Read more about BARC's environmentalism in the [October](#) issue of *Agricultural Research* magazine. ARS is the [U.S. Department of Agriculture's](#) in-house research agency.

By [Don Comis](#)

October 6, 2003

Beetle Is Possible Biocontrol Against Skunk Vine

A foreign flea beetle could hold the key to controlling skunk vine, a weedy vine that is a serious problem in central Florida and Hawaii. ARS scientists found the beetle and other possible biocontrol candidates in Japan and Nepal, where the beetle helps control skunk vine in the plant's native habitat.

Skunk vine (*Paederia foetida*) has invaded parts of the southeastern United States and is expected to spread elsewhere. In addition to its foul, sulfur-like stench, skunk vine grows densely over trees, ornamentals and cash crops. The scientists consider the flea beetle, *Trachyaphthona sordida*, a high-priority candidate for biological control of the pest. They also brought back a lace bug worth evaluating, along with other natural skunk vine enemies discovered during the surveys. During 2 weeks of intense work, they captured three batches of 200 flea beetles and shipped them to a quarantine laboratory at the [Hawaiian Department of Agriculture](#) in Honolulu. Testing will be done at that lab to determine what plants the insects tend to feed on and assess any potential risk from their use as biocontrols. This flea beetle has been recorded as feeding only on skunk vine, and scientists doubt that it would pose a risk to agriculture or to native ecosystems in the United States. More information about this research can be found in the [October](#) issue of *Agricultural Research* magazine. ARS is the [U.S. Department of Agriculture's](#) in-house research agency.

By [Alfredo Flores](#) October 8, 2003